

CITY OF TUCSON WATER WASTE ORDINANCE

In June 2000, the Mayor and Council approved revisions to Tucson Code 27-15, the Water Waste Ordinance, which prohibit the following activities:

1. Allowing water to escape from any premises onto public property, such as alleys or streets, or upon any other person's property.
2. Allowing water to pond in any street or parking lot to a depth greater than 1/4 inch or to permit water to pond over a cumulative surface area greater than 150 square feet on any street or parking lot.
3. Washing driveways, sidewalks, parking areas, or other impervious surface areas with an open hose, or a spray nozzle attached to an open hose, or under regular or system pressure, except when required to eliminate conditions that threaten public health, safety or welfare. This restriction does not apply to residential customers.
4. Operating a misting system in unoccupied non-residential areas.
5. Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head or emitter, or with a head that is spraying more than 10 percent of the spray onto the street, parking lot, or sidewalk. This prohibition does not apply unless the head or emitter was designed to deliver more than one gallon of water per hour during normal use.
6. Failing to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, or a leaking faucet.

TIPS TO REDUCE WATER WASTE

Irrigation System

- ◆ Regularly check irrigation systems for leaks, overspray, pressure, damaged or broken sprinklers (heads, pipes, emitters, tilted heads, and valves).
- ◆ Install rain, relative humidity, or evapotranspiration (ET) sensors on timers.
- ◆ Adjust irrigation run times to meet plant demands:
 - Over-watering causes most water waste violations.
 - Know how much time you can run each valve before water runoff occurs.
 - On slopes, reduce run time to eliminate runoff and add another start time (if necessary).
 - Improve Distribution Uniformity (DU) – the measurement of how evenly the water is distributed over the irrigated area. Poor uniformity results in higher water use & over-watering to reach the under-irrigated areas (brown spots).
- ◆ Check spacing of sprinklers based on DU.
- ◆ Replace sprinkler heads so they are uniform by type (rotors, spray) and brand.
- ◆ Insist on SmartScape trained professionals.

MORE TIPS TO REDUCE WATER WASTE

Design

- ◆ Consider reducing overall turf area.
- ◆ Eliminate small and irregular size turf areas (less than 5' width).
- ◆ Eliminate turf adjacent to hardscape (sidewalks, streets, parking lots).
- ◆ Make sure turf areas are lower than hardscapes.
- ◆ Make sure plants are planted by hydrozone (desert-adapted plants together, high water use plants together) and are being watered correctly.

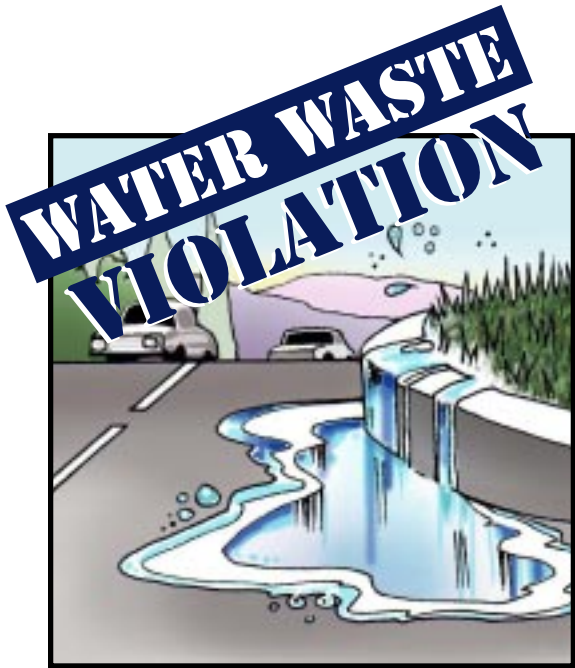
*For more information
about the
Water Waste Ordinance,
call 791-4331*



*Si usted desea este en español,
llame al 791-4331.*

City of Tucson TTY# 791-2639

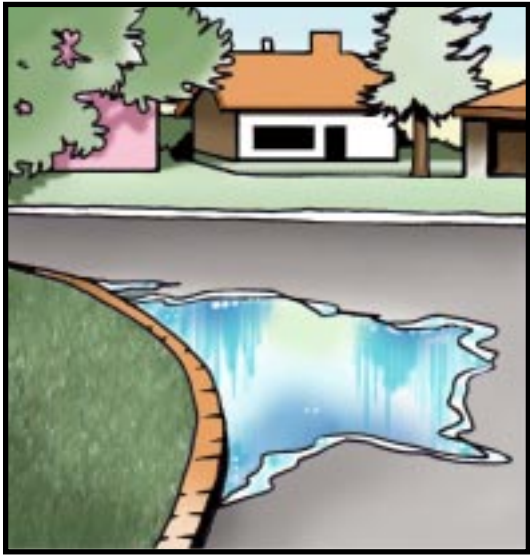
*Visit our website:
www.tucsonaz.gov/water/*



CITY OF TUCSON WATER WASTE VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT PROCESS



WATER WASTE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS



Upon investigation of a Water Waste complaint, **Tucson Water may issue a citation immediately** upon observing a violation of the Water Waste Ordinance (see reverse). Within three days, Tucson Water will verify that the problem has been corrected.

Step 1. After Initial Investigation by Tucson Water Staff

Immediately stop the source of water waste. If the water waste continues after the first warning, a citation can be given at any time. Efforts should be made to correct any problems identified during the initial investigation (i.e. replace broken sprinkler heads, repair leaks, irrigation timer(s) adjust or turn off, schedule audit).

Step 2. Conduct an Audit

If the irrigation system has multiple problems, Tucson Water strongly recommends a formal landscape irrigation audit be conducted. Audits should include the following information:

- ◆ A checklist for each valve or station (“Station Data” form).
- ◆ A measurement of distribution uniformity for representative zones, or zones where visual inspection indicates a potential problem.
- ◆ An estimate of the irrigation efficiency in each zone.
- ◆ Current and recommended irrigation schedule & suggested improvements.

A complete report from the auditor should be filed with Tucson Water.

Step 3. Develop an Action Plan

- ◆ Create a list of priority water management actions by considering those that are: 1. no-cost, 2. low-cost, and 3. actions that require money

(“Water Conservation Actions – Costs & Benefits” form).

- ◆ Develop a plan that outlines the actions and implementation schedule (“Irrigation System Audit Budget Worksheet”).

Step 4. Prepare for Follow-up by Tucson Water Staff

Three days after the initial investigation, Tucson Water Conservation Inspectors will revisit the site, investigate the problem areas, and review any repairs and changes.

Step 5. Citation

If corrections have not been made or audit/repair dates have not been scheduled, a citation will be issued for each offense and for each day that the violation continues. It is possible that a business could receive more than one citation per day for different violations (i.e. water escaping onto street & pooling to 1/4” in parking lot).

Citation Process

When a violation is observed, a written notice requiring the violation to be corrected will be given to the customer. A citation can be issued at this time or the responsible party may be given time to correct the problem. If the violation is not corrected within the specified time, a citation will be issued and a fine in the amount of \$250 may be imposed for a first time offense. Subsequent violations are subject to a minimum fine of \$500 and a maximum fine of \$2,500.

Despite the availability of penalties, the main effort of the Water Waste Enforcement program is educational, even after a citation has been issued. The money used to pay a fine would be much more effectively spent improving water use efficiency and eliminating waste. To that end, Tucson Water seeks fines primarily in cases where repeated water waste is occurring, where property owners or managers are unwilling to make necessary improvements, or where violations are intentional.

Find a qualified auditor and audit forms at:
www.tucsonaz.gov/water/conservation.htm